

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1,946
C 762
Cap. 1

CONSUMER TIME

GUARD YOUR GARDEN

LIBRARY
CURRENT AFFAIRS RECORD

OCT - 2 1943

NETWORK: NEC

ORIGIN: WRC

U.S. DATE: April 24, 1943

TIME: 12:15-12:30 PM-EWT

(Produced by the Food Distribution Administration of the Department of Agriculture, this script is for reference only, and may not be broadcast without special permission. The title, CONSUMER TIME, is restricted to network broadcasts of this program, presented for ten years in the interest of consumers.)

oooOooo

1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...RINGS TWICE...
2. MAN: (SIMPLY) This is CONSUMER TIME.
3. SOUND: MONEY IN TELL...CLOSE DRAWER...
4. WOMAN: That's your money buying food.
5. SOUND: CASH REGISTER.
6. MAN: That's your money paying for a home.
7. SOUND: CASH REGISTER.
8. WOMAN: That's your money buying clothes.
9. MAN: Buying you a living in wartime.
10. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER...

11. VOICE: CONSUMER TIME presents - the News of the Week -
interpreted by your consumer reporter, Johnny Smith ---
12. JOHN: The war orders straight from Washington ---
13. VOICE: (ON FILTER) Ceiling prices on poultry are revised in
order to beat black market.
14. JOHN: If you've been wondering why you haven't been able to
get so many chickens lately, it's because the black
market has been grabbing them. If we want to put a
stop to that, we'll have to watch the ceiling price
list in our butcher shops and be sure we don't pay any
more than the ceiling price for any poultry we buy.
- ¹⁵
15. VOICE: (ON FILTER) OPA reduces point values for frozen fruits
and vegetables and rationed soups.
16. JOHN: One pound of frozen fruit now costs only six points,
instead of thirteen. Same for the following frozen
vegetables: asparagus; lima; green; and waxed beans;
corn, peas, and spinach. The point value of dried
soups is cut in half. Among the canned and bottled
soups, ten-and-a-half-ounce sizes are now cut from
six points down to four - except tomato soup, which
now costs only three points. And here's some more
good news from OPA ---
17. VOICE: (ON FILTER) Blackeyed peas are removed from rationing.

13. JOHN:

No points to pay now when you want to buy blackeyed
peas. Other foods that are not rationed include: eggs,
fresh fruit and vegetables, poultry, fish and shellfish
of all kinds except that in sealed containers, and
perishable cheese such as cream or cottage cheese.

(PAUSE)

30. JOHN: And now for the main subject of our program today - Victory gardens. Remember last week, your consumer representative here - Mrs. Evelyn Freyman - said she was worried about her garden ---
31. FREYMAN: And I still am. Johnny.
32. JOHN: What's the matter? Those bugs showed up yet?
33. FREYMAN: No, not yet. There really isn't anything for them to eat yet. But when there is - and the bugs do come - I want to be ready for them.
34. JOHN: That's the spirit. Most people have to learn about bugs the hard way. Like my friend Jim Potter ---
35. FREYMAN: Did they ruin his garden?
36. JOHN: Darn near it. If it hadn't been for Hezekiah ---
37. FREYMAN: Who on earth is Hezekiah?
38. JOHN: Oh, an old codger who used to come whistling by while Jim was gardening. Hezekiah lived on a farm - just outside of town. Used to walk in every morning, and he'd stop and lean on the fence to watch.
39. FREYMAN: Jim did his gardening in the morning?

40. JOHN: Part of it. Always said it made him feel good to get a bit of digging in before breakfast. And he was feeling A-number-one the first time Hezekiah stopped by. It was one of those wonderful mornings. You know - sun shining, birds singing as if they'd burst their throats ----

41. SOUND: START TO SNEAK IN BIRDS.

42. JIM: (WITHOUT PAUSE) My cabbage plants had just been set out, and I was out there working 'round them ----

43. SOUND: CHOP OF WHEEL IN TARTY ON BIKE. TUNE WHISTLED OFF, APPROACHING - DRIPS NEAR AND STOPS.

44. HEZEKIAH: (AWAY FROM BIKE) 'Mornin', Young feller. (PAUSE)
(LOUDER) I say, good mornin'!

45. SOUND: NOISE STOPS.

46. JIM: Huh?... Oh, good morning.

47. HEZEKIAH: Nice looking cabbages you got there.

48. JIM: (PROUDLY) Yeah - we think so.

49. HEZEKIAH: Who's "we"?

45. JIM: My wife and I. She's got it all figured out just what she's going to do with these cabbages - sauerkraut, and so on.

46. SOUND: MORE MOEING.

47. HEZEKIAH: Well, I hate to see a lady disappointed ---

48. JIM: Huh? What do you mean?

49. HEZEKIAH: If your wife gets a good mess of sauerkraut out of them cabbages, I'll - well, I'll eat my dungarees.

50. JIM: I'm cultivating them.

51. HEZEKIAH: You sure are, son!

52. JIM: But I thought we were supposed to keep the top soil broken up - pulverized ---

53. HEZEKIAH: That's the old way of doing it. Folks are finding out now that too much pulverizing lets all the water dry out of the ground. Your plants 'll get thirsty - wither up ---

54. JIM: Are you sure?

55. HEZEKIAH: Sure I'm sure. Latest scientific facts prove it.

56. JIM: (DOUBTFULLY) Really?

57. HEZEKIAH: (CHUCKLING) Wouldn't hardly expect me to know the latest scientific facts now, would you?

58. JIM: I didn't mean that ---

59. HEZEKIAH: Well, fact is - I do. And my advice to you, son, is give this here garden a rest for a while. Weed it - but don't always keep stirring it up. (PAUSE) Okay?
60. JIM: (RELUCTANTLY) Okay.
61. HEZEKIAH: I know it's hard to stop - once you've got the feel of the earth in your fingers. But you'll have plenty to keep you busy - just keeping the bugs away.
62. JIM: Oh, you needn't worry about bugs in this Victory garden.
63. HEZEKIAH: No?
64. JIM: No. I got the very best plants I could find. Guaranteed to resist disease.
65. HEZEKIAH: But disease isn't bugs.
66. JIM: Well, the man in the store said that he'd tried these, and didn't have any trouble with bugs.
67. HEZEKIAH: Where'd he try them - in a window box?
68. JIM: (SLIGHTLY ANNOYED) I don't know where he tried them.
69. HEZEKIAH: Okay, son. I hope he's right. We'll see. (TURNING OFF)
So long.
70. JIM: So long.

71. HEZEKIAH: (AWAY) But don't let me catch you raking up them poor defenseless cabbage plants tomorrow morning.
72. JIM: (GOOD NATUREDLY) All right!
73. SOUND: WHISTLING STARTS, AWAY FROM LIKE, AND FADES OFF.
74. JOHN: (ON CUE) Well, it was just the morning after that when Jim went out in his garden and found trouble. He couldn't believe his eyes....
75. SOUND: FADE IN BIRDS. HOLD UNDER.
76. JIM: (CALLING, ALARMED) Betty! Betty---!
77. BETTY: (OFF) Yes---?
78. JIM: Come out here - quick!
79. BETTY: (FADING IN) What's the matter, darling?
80. JIM: Something terrible's happened.
81. BETTY: What?
82. JIM: Look - our cabbage plants!
83. BETTY: Good heavens! Cut down! Three of them!
84. JIM: Cut right off - close to the ground, as neat as a whistle.
85. BETTY: (HURT) Now, who would ever do a thing like that?

36. JIM: It's not "who", honey. It's "what."
37. BETTY: Well, what, then?
38. JIM: Rabbits, I suppose.
39. BETTY: But they'd eat the cabbage - wouldn't they? Not just cut them off and leave them sitting here.
90. JIM: I don't know, but I'm going to get a shotgun and ---
91. SOUND: SAME WHISTLING APPROACHES, OFF.
92. BETTY: Oh, Jim - you wouldn't kill a darling little rabbit --!
93. JIM: If he cuts down my cabbage plants? I most certainly --
(HE STOPS) Say - I bet he'd know.
94. BETTY: Who are you waving at?
95. JIM: (SHOUTING) hey ---!
96. SOUND: WHISTLING STOPS.
97. HEZEKIAH: (OFF) Hello, young feller.
98. JIM: (CALLING) Hello. Would you please come here a minute?
99. HEZEKIAH: Sure thing.
100. BETTY: (SOTTO) A friend of mine. (LOUDER) I- I don't believe I know your name ---

101. JIM: (SOFT) A friend of mine. (LOUDER) I - I don't believe I know your name ---
102. HEZEKIAH: (FADING IN) Just call me Hezekiah.
103. JIM: My names' Potter - Jim Potter.
104. HEZEKIAH: Good sensible name.
105. JIM: And this is my wife.
106. BETTY: (How do you do.
107. HEZEKIAH: (Pleased to meet you, ma'am.
108. BETTY: Thank you.
109. HEZEKIAH: I see your husband has stopped bothering them poor little cabbages.
110. JIM: Something else is bothering 'em now, look there ---
111. HEZEKIAH: Well, I'll be ---! Cutworms!
112. BETTY : Cutworms!
113. JIM: I thought it was rabbits.
114. HEZEKIAH: No - rabbits wouldn't be likely to just cut a plant off and leave it there. They'd eat it.
115. BETTY: That's what I thought.
116. JIM: But why on earth would a cutworm - or anything else - be so darned ornery as to ---

117. HEZEKIAH: That's how cutworms are. Darned ornery.
118. JIM: Just cut things off for the fun of cutting them?
119. HEZEKIAH: Looks that way. Some cutworms just trim the leaves off a plant - the nice, young fresh ones. Others - like your friend here - seems to take an unholy delight --
120. JIM: He's no friend of mine. If I could get my hands on that varmit ----!
121. HEZEKIAH: You want to find him?
122. JIM: I sure do.
123. HEZEKIAH: Well, we'll just take this stick - and dig around one of those cut-off plants ---
124. BETTY: Is he in the ground?
125. HEZEKIAH: Yes, ma'am - that's where a cutworm hides - during the daytime. In fact, he's been hiding there all winter - just waiting for a nice spring evening, and some juicy young plants.
126. JIM: Comes out at night, eh?
127. HEZEKIAH: Yup - and does his dirty work. Then he crawls back into the ground again at dawn. Foxy critter.
128. BETTY: Are you finding anything, Hezekiah?

129. HEZEKIAH: Not yet. He's liable to be buried anywhere around here - within three or four inches away from the cut plants.
130. BETTY: About how far down does he go?
131. HEZEKIAH: Just about an inch below the surface, ma'am. Don't worry, we'll find him here somewhere Say - look!
132. BETTY: Where?
133. HEZEKIAH: Curled up here - right at the point of my stick ---
134. BETTY: That little catterpillar?
135. HEZEKIAH: That's a cutworm.
136. JIM: I Can't see anything.
137. HEZEKIAH: He's brownish gray. Camouflaged, Here - hold out your hand ---
138. JIM: (AFTER PAUSE) Ugh! Homely chap.
139. HEZEKIAH: (CHUCKLING) He ain't no beauty.
140. JIM: And you mean to say a little thing like this did all that damage?
141. HEZEKIAH: Cutworms can do plenty of damage. One worm can kill many plants in a single night. And you can't tell how many cutworms you might have hiding in this here garden.

142. BETTY: Well, goodness sakes! What'll we do?
143. HEZEKIAH: There's a couple of things you can do, ma'am, to fight cutworms. If you just have a few plants - young and tender - you might put paper collars on 'em.
144. BETTY: Paper collars?
145. HEZEKIAH: Yeah. Just take a postcard - or something about that size and thickness - and roll it around the stem of the plant. Then shove it down about one inch into the soil. Cutworms won't bit through heavy paper.
146. JIM: But that doesn't really get rid of the cutworms - does it?
147. HEZEKIAH: No - if you're dead set on getting rid of 'em.---
148. JIM: I am.
149. HEZEKIAH: Then you'll have to lay some bait around to catch 'em. There's just one thing a cutworm likes better than juicy young plants, and that's bran.
150. BETTY: Bran? Just ordinary dry bran - like I use in muffins?
- 150 A. HEZEKIAH: That's right - only I wouldn't waste muffin bran on these varmits. Get the cheapest 'br n you can - about five pounds of it for a small garden like this. Then mix your poison with it.---

151. JIM: What kind of poison?
152. HEZEKIAH: Oh, arsenic - or paris green - or sodium Fluo-silicate. About two tablespoonful will do. Then you add about five quarts of water to make a mash ----
153. JIM: Wait a minute. I'd better write this down.
154. HEZEKIAH: I'll write it out for you.
155. BETTY: Well, where do we put the bran mash?
156. HEZEKIAH: Just sprinkle it around the garden - or around the bases of your plants.
157. JIM: And you guarantee, Heseekiah, that those cutworms will eat the poisoned bran instead of our cabbages?
158. HEZEKIAH: I guarantee it. (ARCHLY) But of course a guarantee don't always work. Didn't that feller who sold you the cabbages guarantee they wouldn't draw any bugs!
159. JIM: (GOOD NATUREDLY) Just wait till I see him ----!
160. HEZEKIAH: (CHUCKLING) And you can tell him that those cutworms are just the beginning. There'll be aphids coming along pretty soon - and then flea beetles - and bean beetles ----
161. BETTY: (APPALLED) Really?

162. HEZEKIAH: Well, at least they're liable to come along, ma'am - and you want to be ready for 'em.
163. BETTY: With bran mash?
164. HEZEKIAH: No - each different kind of varmint has got to be given his own special kind of ammunition. Now, aphids - those are plant lice ---
165. JIM: I know. Little green things.
166. HEZEKIAH: That's it. And they don't eat bran - or plants either. They just suck out the juice. So the only way you can kill them is to get the poison directly on 'em.
167. JIM: What kind of poison for aphids?
168. HEZEKIAH: Soapsuds.
169. BETTY: Just ordinary soapsuds?
170. HEZEKIAH: Yup - though if you want to make sure, better add some nicotine. You see, aphids have soft bodies - so the poison seeps right in. Now, beetles are something else again. They're protected, so you got to poison the plants they feed on.
171. BETTY: (ADMIRINGLY) Hezekiah! How on earth do you know all this?
172. JIM: He's a farmer, honey.

173. HEZEKIAH: Well I wouldn't trust just farming to teach me all I know about bugs. 'Member what I told you yesterday, young feller - about me knowing all the latest scientific facts---?
174. JIM: I guess you were right.
175. HEZEKIAH: Well, I get them facts straight from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Read all their bulletins ---
176. BETTY: Jim reads their bulletins too.
177. HEZEKIAH: Him?
178. JIM: (APPOLOGETICALLY) Well, I haven't ever read one about bugs ---
179. HEZEKIAH: Then what do you read?
180. JIM: Oh, facts on how to refinish old furniture, and ---
181. HEZEKIAH: Well, it pears to me like you'd better read a few facts about bugs.
182. HEZEKIAH: No use wasting good seed - and land - and a lot of elbow grease - just to feed cutworms.
183. JIM: You're right there.

184. HEZEKIAH: And when I come by this way again I hope to see every varmint in this here Victory garden biting the dust. The poison dust. Understand?
185. JIM: Yes, sir.
186. HEZEKIAH: All right then. So long.
187. JIM: (So long, Hezekiah.
188. BETTY: (So long.
189. SOUND: WHISTLE STARTS UP. GRADUALLY FADES.
190. JOHN: (Narrative Style) So that's what Jim did - that very day. Came to see me and I steered him straight to the experts in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine -
191. FREYMAN: And - was Hezekiah right, Johnny:
192. JOHN: You bet he was right. Had his facts straight from the Department of Agriculture. And I have those same facts for you - right here on this Consumer Tips Card ---
193. FREYMAN: All the facts?
194. JOHN: All that you're likely to need. This takes care of those four main pests that trouble Victory gardeners - cutworms, aphids, flea beetles, and bean beetles.
195. FREYMAN: Well, that should be enough.

196. JOHN: If you find anything else eating up your garden —
197. FREYMAN: Anything that has more than two legs —
198. JOHN: That's it. And if you do — you'll find directions right on this Tips Card telling where you can write for more information about how to guard your garden.
199. FREYMAN: Maybe — if we guard it too well — we'll end up with too much food.
200. JOHN: Don't worry about that!
201. FREYMAN: But I am a little worried, Johnny. I don't want to see the food I grow go to waste.
202. JOHN: Why should it? Eat and you can while it's fresh. Then what you can't eat — can.
203. FREYMAN: You pull that old joke every year.
204. JOHN: Well, it's still good advice.
205. FREYMAN: But are there going to be enough rubber rings this year for canning, Johnny? And metal jar tops—?
206. JOHN: According to all the reports I've heard — yes. The War Production Board is making every effort to assure us plenty of the things we need for canning.
207. FREYMAN: How about pressure cookers?

208. JOHN: Several thousand new ones are being made this year, but we'll all have to share them with each other.
209. FREYMAN: Well, just so we can use them - And sugar? Will we be able to get what we need? And will we have to spend our ration points to get it?
210. JOHN: No ration points will be charged when you go to get sugar for canning.
211. FREYMAN: You're sure? I've heard so many conflicting reports ---
212. JOHN: If you don't believe me, ask Mr. Bartlett here.
213. FREYMAN: I didn't mean ---
214. JOHN: You know Mr. Bartlett - Special Assistant to the Director of the Food Distribution Administration ---
215. FREYMAN: Of course, Pello there, Mr. Bartlett.
216. BARTLETT: Hello, Mrs. Freyman.
217. JOHN: How about that canning question, sir?
218. BARTLETT: You're right. No Victory Gardener should worry about producing too much food this year.
219. FREYMAN: Well, I just wanted to make sure. I hate to see food go to waste.

220. BARTLETT:

And you're right there, Mrs. Freyman. Johnny spoke a moment ago about guarding your garden. But that doesn't just mean guard it against insects -- or against weeds, or drought. We have to guard our gardens against all their enemies. And one of the most dangerous is waste. You know, I sort of picture Waste as an awfully greedy guy with a great big mouth -- waiting to gobble up the things we need to win this war. He'll gobble up seeds -- if you don't watch out -- when you're planting. And -- if you plant too much of one thing at one time -- he's liable to gobble up some of your vegetables.

222. FREYMAN:

But Mr. Bartlett --I thought you said ----

223. BARTLETT:

That you don't have to worry about planting too much? You don't -- if you plan your garden wisely. Now, take lettuce, for instance. If you fill your whole garden full of lettuce, you're bound to have more than you can eat ripening at one time. But if you plant it one short row at a time -- and then another row, say, every ten days -- why, you can have nice fresh salads right straight through the summer.

224. FREYMAN:

That's a good idea!

225. BARTLETT: I can't take credit for it. The Victory garden people have been recommending it for months. They say you can do that with radishes too - and other vegetables that have a long growing season. Plant a succession of crops. Eat the foods while they're at their best.
226. FREYMAN: But of course some vegetables can only be planted once during a season.
227. BARTLETT: Of course. And those are the ones you'll want to conserve. I say "conserve" instead of "can" because there are so many other ways of preserving food besides canning. You can dry a lot of vegetables - and fruits too. Others you can store away in the cellar - or pickle in brine.
228. FREYMAN: I wish I knew more about those other ways of conserving food, Mr. Bartlett.
229. BARTLETT: Well, why don't we have a broadcast on the subject sometime?
230. FREYMAN: I'm all for it.
231. BARTLETT: How about that, Johnny?
232. JOHN: I should think a program on food conservation - or preservation - would be a good thing.

233. FREYMAN: Next week?
234. JOHN: No, I've planned something else for next week.
235. FREYMAN: What?
236. JOHN: A program on Vitamins.
237. FREYMAN: Oh, good! I think Vitamins are pretty much of a
 mystery to most people, a mystery we'd like to have
 cleared up.
238. JOHN: Then we'll solve it for you next week.
239. FREYMAN: But don't forget that Consumer Tips Card you promised
 us - telling how to keep the bugs out of our Victory
 gardens.
240. JOHN: I'll tell all our listeners just where they can write
 to get their free copy of this handy Tips Card to keep
 in their household file.
241. FREYMAN: Oh, and there's something else our listeners want, Johnny.
242. JOHN: What's that?
243. FREYMAN: Well, they liked the way we gave a summary about ration
 points last Saturday. Several have asked if we could
 do that on every broadcast.

244. JOHN: Sure we can - if it helps keep them posted.

245. FREYMAN: All right. Then - what ration coupons are good now for buying meat?

246. JOHN: Red coupons marked A, B, C, or D are good from now till April thirtieth - for buying meats and fats. Coupons marked E are good starting tomorrow - until some date which has not yet been announced.

247. FREYMAN: I see. And how about canned goods?

250. JOHN: Blue coupons marked D, E, or F may be used from now till April thirtieth. And coupons G, H, and J become valid today and can be used through May.

251. JOHN: Coupon number twenty-six in War Ration Book One is good until tomorrow for one pound of coffee. After that we use coupon twenty-three.

252. JOHN: Coupon number twenty-six in War Ration Book One is good until tomorrow for one pound of coffee. After that we use coupon twenty-three.
253. FREYMAN: And - sugar?
254. JOHN: Coupon number twelve in Book one is good for five pounds of sugar any time between now and the end of May.
255. FREYMAN: Well, that takes care of that. And now - for that Consumer Tips Card ---
256. JOHN: If you want to know how to chase the bugs out of your Victory garden, just drop a line to CONSUMER TIME - Department of Agriculture - Washington, D. C. But be sure to tell us your own name and address and the call letters of your radio station. We got a few requests last week that didn't have names on them, so we couldn't send you the information you asked for. And that always makes us feel as bad as it does you. So please do include your name and address - won't you? And the call letters of the radio station over which you heard this program, Thank you. And remember ---
GUARD YOUR GARDEN!

257. ANNOUNCER:

Did you catch where to write for this free offer to help on guarding gardens? Address your request to
CONSUMER TIME- Department of Agriculture - Washington,
D. C.

Heard on today's program were;

Script by Jane Aslman.

CONSUMER TIME is a public service of NBC and associated radio stations, presented by the Food Distribution Administration of the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with other Government agencies working for consumer.

CONSUMER TIME has come to you from Washington.

This is the National Broadcasting Company.

